

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magnetic recording medium, comprising:
an elongate non-magnetic substrate;
5 a foundation layer formed on said non-magnetic substrate;
a magnetic layer having a thickness of 55 nm or less formed by a vacuum thin film forming technique on said non-magnetic substrate, wherein
a signal is reproduced by sliding one of a magneto-resistive head
10 and a giant magneto-resistive head, and
said foundation layer is formed of a silicon nitride film having a thickness of 2 nm to 50 nm.
2. A magnetic recording medium, comprising:
15 an elongate non-magnetic substrate;
a magnetic layer having a thickness of 55 nm or less formed by a vacuum thin film evaporation technique on one principal surface of said non-magnetic substrate; and
a back foundation layer formed on a principal surface of said
20 non-magnetic substrate on a side opposite said magnetic layer, wherein
a signal is reproduced by sliding one of a magneto-resistive head and a giant magneto-resistive head, and
said back foundation layer is formed of a silicon nitride film.
- 25 3. The magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said back foundation layer is formed of a silicon nitride film having a thickness of 2 nm to 200 nm.
4. The magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said
30 back foundation layer and a back coating layer are formed in layers on said principal surface of said non-magnetic substrate on the side opposite

the side on which said magnetic layer is formed.